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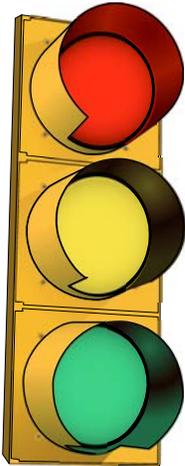
New Guidance Regarding Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Code G0297

Note: This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

All providers billing outpatient services to Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) that are paid under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

HCPCS codes G0297, insertion of single chamber pacing cardioverter defibrillator pulse generator, and G0337, hospice evaluation and counseling services, pre-election, were incorrectly listed as terminated January 28, 2005 in the July 2005 Release (V6.2) of the OPPS Outpatient Code Editor (OCE).

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

G0297 is a valid code recognized under Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) edit 69. G0337 is not paid under OPPS but may be payable when submitted to Regional Home Health Intermediaries by hospice providers.

GO – What You Need to Do

Read the guidelines listed below regarding claims containing HCPCS codes G0297 and G0337.

Background

On August 1, 2005 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing new guidelines to Medicare FIs for paying HCPCS code G0297 and G0337. Those instructions roll back the edit published on June 1, 2005, Change Request (CR) 3871, Transmittal 572, which assigned OPPS OCE edit “69” (services provided outside the approval period) to the codes G0297 and G0337 and listed them, incorrectly, as terminated on January 28, 2005.

On July 7, 2005 CMS issued direction to pay claims with the above HCPCS codes outside the OCE. The new guidelines for HCPCS codes G0297 and G0337 are listed below.

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HCPCS Code G0297

- Providers should note that FIs will hold claims dated on or after January 28, 2005 containing this code until the October 2005 implementation of the OCE and then the FIs will process the claims for payment.
- If affected providers furnished additional services on the same claim with HCPCS G0297, they may remove the charges for G0297 from the claim and submit for the remaining services.
- After October 2005 providers may submit an adjustment claim reflecting code G0297 in order to receive payment.
- Providers must be timely when filing for adjustment claims.

Note: After the successful implementation of the October 2005 OCE, FIs will release held claims for payment.

HCPCS Code G0337

- Effective immediately, FIs must allow payment on all claims that contain the G0337 code beginning with dates of service of January 28, 2005, and later.

Additional Information

For additional information relating to this issue, please refer to your intermediary. To find their toll free phone numbers go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/contacts/> on the CMS web site.

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